

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior listings of the claims with the following:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising administering an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 18. (Original): The method according to claim 17 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The method according to claim 18 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω9).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a

medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus Mortierella, genus Conidiobolus, genus Phythium, genus Phytophthora, genus Penicillium, genus Cladosporium, genus Mucor, genus Fusarium, genus Aspergillus, genus Rhodotorula, genus Entomophthora, genus Echinosporangium, or genus Saprolegnia and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting from said culture.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising providing a composition or a food or drink containing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 25. (Original): The method according to claim 24 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 26. (Original): The method according to claim 25 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn): A method of preparing an ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising using an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to prepare the ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 33. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 34. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 33 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 35. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 36. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 37. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 38. (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]] A method of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid for the preparation of a composition or preparing a food or drink having an effect of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising admixing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component in the food or drink, in an amount effective to ameliorate a liver disease associated with hepatopathy.~~

Claim 40. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 40 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω 9).

Claim 43. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus Mortierella, genus Conidiobolus, genus Phythium, genus Phytophthora, genus Penicillium, genus Cladosporium, genus Mucor, genus Fusarium, genus Aspergillus,

genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.